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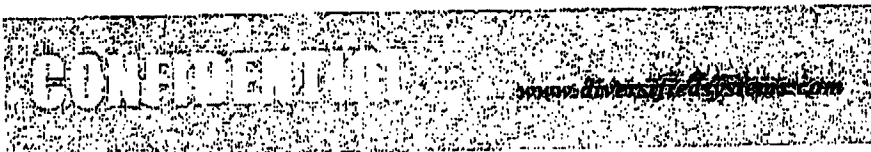
Facsimile Transmittal

To: J. Ashtcroft Fax: 202 616 9937
Company: AG Pages: 2
From: Homer Beaud Date: 1-23-02
CC: _____

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Thank you for your consideration

Homer Beaud



January 22, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am taking a moment to write to you to express concern about settlement reached between your office and Microsoft in the antitrust case. I fear that there are groups that would like this settlement withdrawn and see this case continue. You should avoid the advice of these groups and finalize the settlement.

Under this settlement Microsoft will disclose its information about internal interfaces within Windows, which will give competitors unprecedented access to Microsoft code. This will create more openness and competition in the IT industry. No other software company has ever agreed to share so much information as Microsoft has in this settlement. There clearly is no reason to continue this case.

I am in favor of the proposed Microsoft settlement, and I hope that it is finalized quickly. There are many more important priorities with which to deal, and prolonging this case would be folly. I am hoping that you agree and will stand behind your settlement.

Sincerely,

Homer Beard 1/23/02

Homer Beard
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